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Jackson

LIBRARY NEWS

MISSISSIPPI SEEKS STATE AID FOR LIBRARIES

Mississippi State Library Commission

Chapter 131, Code 1930

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Please send library dues to **Miss Charlotte Capers, Department of Archives and History.**

Individual \$1.00 — Institution \$2.50

FACTS ABOUT LIBRARY SERVICE IN MISSISSIPPI

Question: Are there people without library service in the State?

Answer: 847,248 or 38 percent of the total population are without public library service.

28 counties have no publicly supported library in their borders.

No Mississippi library has a book collection large enough to meet the needs of its readers.

Question: What library service is available in Mississippi?

Answer: Mississippi has 38 public libraries.

30 counties are appropriating funds for public libraries, but of these only 14 appropriate \$1,000 or more.

After withdrawal of WPA funds, 24 county units continued some type of library program. The service is supported by contributions from local town and city governments and contributions from civic clubs. No unit receives as much as \$1,000.

The total population within service area is 1,336,548. This number represents total population, only two libraries give negro service—Evans Memorial Library, Aberdeen, and Carnegie Public Library, Clarksdale.

Question: How do Mississippi libraries measure up to national library standards?

Answer: No Mississippi library meets minimum standards for library service as set up by the American Library Association.

Mississippi libraries, from local appropriations, gifts, and other sources receive .05 per capita state-wide, or .17 for service area, while the minimum national standard is \$1.00 per capita. The actual average expenditure per capita for the United States as a whole is 42 cents.

Mississippi libraries have 1/5 of a book per capita; the minimum standard set up by the American Library Association is two books per capita.

WHY AID FROM THE STATE

Question: Are public libraries an essential function of government?

Answer: Yes, Mississippi has a library law providing for the establishment and support of public libraries.

Question: Are public libraries, like our schools, basic institutions?

Answer: This year it has been made very clear that education is not a process that takes eight years of a child's life, or twelve to sixteen years for the select few, but it is something which must concern the

whole mass of the American people who are trying to work more efficiently, to live more satisfactorily and to think more clearly.

Question: Does the State assume any financial responsibility for schools?

Answer: Yes, forty percent of the cost of the public school system is paid by the State.

Question: Does the State assume any responsibility for the financial support of public libraries in Mississippi?

Answer: So far, no state appropriation for local public library service in the State has been made. Although the 1940 Legislature passed legislation for State-aid for public libraries, no appropriation was voted at the time.

Question: Have other states seen fit to vote state appropriations for public libraries?

Answer: Yes. Arkansas has appropriated state aid since 1937 — \$120,000 appropriated for 1943-45.

Louisiana since 1938 — \$144,820 appropriated 1942-1944, with an additional \$70,000 July, 1943.

Michigan, 1938 — \$300,000 for year 1943-1944;

North Carolina, 1941. \$250,000 for 1943-1945;

Virginia, 1942. \$100,000 for 1942-1944. Seven other northeastern states and Hawaii make appropriations for local public library service.

WHAT AMOUNT IS NEEDED

Question: How much money will be requested for State aid for public Libraries?

Answer: \$150,000 for the biennium 1944-1946 will be requested of the 1944 legislature.

Question: Will State aid fund require additional taxes?

Answer: Approval of State aid for public libraries will mean no new taxes as the sum would be allocated from the general fund of the State.

Question: How was the amount to be requested determined?

Answer: Close study and observation have been given to the organization and development of eight county-wide libraries in the State over a period of five years. This study has been made from the standpoint of area served, taxpaying ability of the area served, use made of available resources, type of organization and administration, increased use of library by schools and adults, increased financial support by local governments annually.

The present effort to pay is 17 cents, per capita for those in service area. A five-year plan on the basis of 25 cents per capita annually has

been used in working out the cost of a minimum State-wide library program; the State sharing 2/5 of the cost, the local government sharing 3/5 of the cost.

Question: Will every section of Mississippi share in the fund?

Answer: The request for \$150,000, when approved, will be used to establish, stimulate, increase, improve and equalize library service as stated in the Act of 1940.

Question: Will State aid replace local appropriations?

Answer: No, the State aid fund is to stimulate, not to replace local appropriations or to discourage local initiative.

WHO WILL ALLOCATE THE FUND

Question: Who will administer the funds?

Answer: Chapter 131, Code 1930, Section 5391. Duties of Commission. The Commission—to establish county and regional libraries and to use any funds which might come into its custody from any source, for such purpose—under such rules for the allocation of the funds as may be fixed by said Commission.

Question: What must the localities do to share in the fund?

Answer: The governing board of the local library shall present to the Mississippi State Library Commission the local plan for service.

Question: Will the money be spent in Jackson, or in the communities?

Answer: Money will be allocated to the counties to be spent locally according to a plan approved by the State Library Commission.

Question: After the Legislature votes funds for State aid for public libraries how soon will the money be allocated?

Answer: The fiscal year in Mississippi runs from July 1 to June 30, so funds would begin July 1, 1944.

Question: If 28 counties have no public library how can they secure funds?

Answer: The county board of supervisors would be the responsible body until a county library board is appointed. The county supervisors will make the request for the county's share of State funds.

WHAT OF SCHOOL AND COLLEGE LIBRARIES?

Question: Would State aid affect school and college libraries?

Answer: Yes, schools and colleges would benefit indirectly since there would be more books in all sections of the State.

Students will be better prepared for school, for college, and for life.

Public library service is continuous, so books will be available all the year.

Bookmobiles on regular trips about the county would supplement the school libraries, furnish books on special subjects for parallel and recreational reading.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

You can work to secure State aid for public libraries, so there will be more good books for you and your family and your neighbors; so all sections no matter how poor, may have books to read.

You can write to Governor-Elect Thomas L. Bailey about State aid.

You can write to your Legislators about State-aid.

You can remind your legislators frequently of your desire for State aid.

You can keep in touch with the progress of the State aid request by interviewing your representatives and by consulting your librarian.

You can arouse interest in your community in the need for adequate public library service.

You can keep your editor informed about local library needs and State aid for public libraries.

**MISSISSIPPI LIBRARY ASSOCIATION MEETING
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1943 — HEIDELBERG HOTEL, JACKSON
THEME: LIBRARIES TODAY AND TOMORROW**

PROGRAM

Friday, December 3 — 10 A.M.

Postwar Standards for Public Libraries.....Julia Wright Merrill

Chief Public Library Division, American Library Association, Chicago
Libraries and Postwar Plans....Governor-Elect Thomas L. Bailey, Meridian
Business

Friday, December 3 — 2:00 P.M.

SYMPOSIUM

Miss Julia Wright Merrill, Chief, Public Library Division, American Library Association, Chicago.

Miss Eleanor Harkins, Associate Professor of Library Science, Mississippi State College for Women.

Mr. Jameson C. Jones, Trustee, Alcorn County Library, Corinth.

Dr. J. R. Morton, Professor of Adult Education, Mississippi State College.

Dr. H. M. Ivy, President, Meridian Junior College, Meridian.

Miss Martha Enochs, Member of College Board of Trustees, Jackson, Mississippi.

It is most important that each librarian in the State attend the meeting. Please send library dues if you are unable to attend. There must be at least fifty members of the Mississippi Library Association who are also members of the American Library Association in order that Mississippi may have representation on the ALA Council. The Council member should be elected at the meeting on December 3.

HEADQUARTERS: Heidelberg Hotel, Jackson. Rates \$2.50-\$4.00, single; \$3.50-\$6.00, double. The hotel requests that reservations be made at least a week in advance.

ALCORN COUNTY LIBRARY

The Alcorn County Library was the first county library organized under the new county library law passed by the state legislature; in October, 1938, the Alcorn County Board of Supervisors appointed the library board and made an appropriation of a thousand dollars a year for the support of the library. The Alcorn County Library was the result of the interest and efforts of the library board under the chairmanship of Dr. Richard Warriner, Jr., Miss Pearl Sneed, Secretary of the State Library Commission, Miss Mary U. Rothrock, TVA Librarian, and Mr. Knox McCharen of the TVA, and interested citizens of the town and county, with the co-operation of the WPA. The original collection consisted of books belonging to the WPA, books loaned by the TVA and ones given to the library. A full-time trained librarian was employed in January, 1939. In June, 1939, the WPA loaned a bookmobile, a three-quarter ton truck, to the Alcorn County Library Board to be used in a demonstration of county-wide bookmobile service, giving library service to all the schools and communities in the county; at that time there were five branches run by WPA personnel under the supervision of the librarian. Over the past five years the board of supervisors have almost doubled their original appropriation for the library.

The Corinth Public Library, a private subscription library, was organized in 1928, due to the efforts of Dr. T. W. Young, the Baptist minister. It was kept open one afternoon a week by Mrs. A. J. McEachern, librarian, who gave her time.

In March, 1943, the boards of the two libraries met to discuss plans for the consolidation in order to pool all library efforts and funds and to extend all library facilities to the people of Corinth and Alcorn County free of charge. On April 5, the Corinth Board of Aldermen appropriated twelve hundred dollars a year to help support the library; with the eighteen hundred dollars from the board of supervisors and six hundred dollars from gifts, it makes a total of three thousand, six hundred dollars a year. The staff consists of a trained librarian and a full time assistant. When the two libraries consolidated, they had a total book collection of

fifteen thousand volumes. This consolidation marked the first time in the history of libraries in Mississippi that a private subscription library merged with a free county library.

To house the library the board purchased a large two story building, centrally located, for five thousand dollars, with funds donated by public-spirited citizens of the town. The building was remodeled, and the library moved into its new quarters, reopening the first of May. It has a circulation room, reading room, reference room, children's room, and librarian's office. The rest of the building consists of a servicemen's lounge and shower, a club room, two other rooms for the use of organizations and other community activities, a kitchen, and a pantry for serving.

Last summer a reading contest, sponsored by the Parent-Teacher Association, was held. At the end of the summer a picnic was given for those taking part. Ninety children read and reported on nine hundred and ninety-seven books during the three months; twenty-two were awarded a reading certificate for having read twenty or more books. Twenty Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts have been taught bookbinding and have received their merit badges for it. The library has charge of the Boy Scouts Merit Badge Pamphlet file.

An enthusiastic library program committee has worked out the following program for the library: book reviews published in the paper each week, a story hour for the younger children every Saturday morning, monthly book reviews open to the public, and a series of reviews for the young people. The business men of the town have organized a forum and discussion group and plan to hold their meetings at the library. The library is open for general circulation, and the use of the reading and reference rooms two nights a week. The bookmobile serves thirty-eight schools and twelve communities in the county once a month; new books for the school division are purchased with funds raised by the schools which are matched by the superintendent of education up to a total of two hundred and fifty dollars for all the schools except the separate school districts.

There are eighteen hundred registered borrowers in the town of Corinth; the library is serving thirty-five percent of the white population of the town. The bookmobile serves three thousand school children, a hundred teachers, and about fifteen hundred registered borrowers in the county; this makes a total of six thousand, four hundred borrowers using the library, which is a sixth of the total population served.

Mrs. Augusta Beatty Richardson, Librarian.

FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY STATISTICS — FISCAL YEAR 1942

Place		Total					
		Other			Salaries		
County	City	Binding		Periodicals		Books	
		No.	Value	No.	Value	No.	Value
Aberdeen		\$ 1,000.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 529.35	\$ 654.94	\$ 63.50	\$ 182.30
Alcorn County, Corinth		1,500.00	418.50	1,938.80	1,639.00	99.00	840.39
Attala County, Kosciusko		1,088.81	395.60	1,668.41	959.85	17.25	1,300.00
Benton		1,394.00	500.00	141.18	2,005.18	1,622.82	210.60
Canton		720.00	300.00	90.00	1,632.00	24.50	744.00
Clarkeville		13,000.00	3,600.00	965.73	11,110.00	340.92	15.00
DeSoto County, Hernando					17,555.73	3,713.27	320.87
Greenwood						645.11	5,839.15
Grenada County, Grenada		2,100.00	1,500.00	NO REPORT	124.00	78.00	1,920.00
Gulfport		750.00	500.00	415.54	3,600.00	686.00	450.69
Harrison County, Gulfport		1,200.00	500.00	1,760.00	1,665.46	16.50	220.00
Hattiesburg		5,885.82	4,800.00	37.54	1,537.54	21.00	18.86
Hinds County, Jackson		1,200.00	1,082.24	6,422.06	1,657.66	60.75	948.00
Holmes County, Durant		2,751.00	3,425.00	14.54	4,489.54	2,612.56	304.26
Houston		1,200.00	94.59	4,645.59	1,156.60	42.75	66.14
Jackson		9,400.00	600.00	495.00	9,400.00	22.90	360.00
Jackson County, Passaoula		600.00	600.00	1,635.00	198.03	3,780.00	5,620.00
Laurel						700.00	20.00
Lee County, Tupelo		1,200.00	1,500.00	1,681.65	4,324.65	21.80	145.37
Loudon County, Columbus		200.00	900.00	1,154.30	1,914.30	2.16	3.00
Meridian		280.00	150.00	386.78	1,966.30	21.07	46.00
Monroe County, Philadelphia		6,000.00	1,200.00	7,300.00	426.47	7,300.00	46.60
Northumberland County, Macon		180.00	300.00	163.65	163.65	225.08	3,540.00
Oklahoma		561.31	300.00	411.18	899.15	109.30	439.51
Oktibbeha County, Starkville		150.00	140.00	95.00	95.00	3.00	18.25
Piayson		1,500.00	185.00	628.82	310.85	309.72	78.00
Port Gibson		200.00	300.00	170.00	2,240.82	48.42	39.10
Quitman County, Marks		170.00	900.00	45.00	165.00	1,914.30	80.00
Sunflower County, Ruleville		397.50	847.50	65.00	615.00	289.25	31.00
Union County, New Albany		150.00	1,200.00	1,265.91	1,265.91	1,138.95	200.70
West Point		4,000.00	1,000.00	3,644.34	8,644.34	1,091.20	657.79
		1,500.00		1,500.00	1,500.00	406.85	21.00
TOTAL		\$55,337.63	\$28,021.23	\$11,684.06	\$94,992.91	\$26,336.51	\$1,187.80
							\$1,915.13
							\$88,911.40
							\$87,312.63

1. Fiscal year 1941.

FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY STATISTICS — FISCAL YEAR 1942

County Service							
Staff							
Per Capita							
Circulation							
Volumes							
Per Cent.							
Borrowers							
Service Area							
County Population							
Librarian							
Place							
Aberdeen		Lucille Peacock		Richardson		Yea	
Aitkin County		Mrs. Beulah N. Richardson		8,049		5	
Aitkin County		Mrs. Beulah N. Richardson		119,983		Yea	
Bloxom		Florence Peacock		5,625		5	
Canton		Mrs. Martha R. Fulmer		1,075		Yea	
Clarkdale		Roy and Lee Wilson		6,011		5	
DeSoto County		Mrs. Julia S. Williamson		48,321		1	
Greenville		Amanda Williamson		26,731		1	
Greenwood County		Mr. H. Sanders Smith		67,665		Yea	
Grenada County		Elizabeth Sanders Smith		68,370		.04	
Guilford		Mrs. L. W. Bradley		14,707		.04	
Harrison County		Mrs. J. P. McKeever		19,044		.04	
Harrison County		Mrs. Mary Moore Mitchell		15,195		.04	
Harrison County		Bethany Swearingen		117,969		.04	
Hinds County		Winifred McIntyre		31,088		.04	
Houston		Mrs. Rosa Tabb		10,988		.04	
Jackson County		Mrs. Annie M. Parker		62,107		.04	
Jackson County		Mrs. Lois Kell		20,593		.04	
Laurel		Ellie Bradley Foster		20,598		.04	
Lee County		Mrs. M. M. Foster		38,817		.04	
Lowndes County		Mrs. Alice G. Dwyer		38,231		.04	
McComb		Mrs. R. Lilly		34,911		.04	
Meridian		Mrs. R. L. Bailey		67,992		.04	
Neshoba County		Mrs. W. W. Jones		28,001		.04	
Noxubee County		Mrs. Sessions Pant		26,456		.04	
Okolona		Mrs. Beth Elliott		21,438		.04	
Oktibbeha County		Mrs. Frances B. McKey		22,143		.04	
Oktibbeha County		Mrs. Enua Underwood		18,126		.04	
Oktibbeha County		Frances Person		16,139		.04	
Oktibbeha County		Mrs. W. G. Pettyjohn		12,806		.04	
Oktibbeha County		Mrs. R. S. Smith		27,101		.04	
Oktibbeha County		Mrs. W. F. Smith		60,219		.04	
Union County		Mrs. Mary M. Birett		21,771		.04	
Union County		Lucy Heard		39,421		.04	
West Point		Mrs. Mary M. Birett		19,019		.04	
TOTAL				1,061,120		.04	
Reference		20,598		35,236		.04	
Yea		2,550		3,986		.04	
No		6,270		8,182		.04	
Yes		16,812		17,977		.04	
No		1,337		1,021		.04	
Yes		13		18,720		.04	
No		7,424		9,221		.04	
Yes		8,778		10,665		.04	
No		1,067		8,64		.04	
Yes		1,386		20,084		.04	
No		4,217		6,221		.04	
Yes		1,386		21,903		.04	
No		3,174		3,000		.04	
Yes		7,187		7,044		.04	
No		2,101		2,050		.04	
Yes		21,717		23,636		.04	
No		6,662		6,662		.04	
Yes		1,036		1,036		.04	
No		7,726		7,726		.04	
TOTAL		920,563		1,492,308		1,55	
TOTAL		1,061,120		1,31,855		1,55	

SUBSCRIPTION AND ASSOCIATION = FISCAL YEAR 1942

County Service	Place	Librarian
County Service	Brookhaven	Ethel Hardy
Staff	Laurel	Mrs. D. B. Cooley
Per Capita	Passa Christian	
Circulation	Kosciusko City	Mrs. M. P. Derden
Volumes		
Per Cent		
Borrowers		
Service Area		
County Population	TOTAL	

SUBSCRIPTION AND ASSOCIATION — FISCAL YEAR 1942